

5. The process [Process] according to claim 2 wherein [any of the claims 1 to 4 characterized in that] the UV treatment is limited to the liquors of the washing stage(s) having a temperature below 50⁰C.

6. The process [Process] according to claim 1 wherein [any of the claims 1 to 5 characterized in that] precipitation bath liquors or washing liquors having a Hazen color number Hz ≤ 400 is subjected to the UV treatment.

7. The process [Process] according to claim 1 wherein [any of the claims 1 to 6 in which] the precipitation bath and several washing stages are connected in series and have liquor cycles of their own, characterized in that the cycle liquors of the precipitation bath and the first washing stage(s) are treated with ultra-violet radiation.

8. The process [Process] according to claim 6 characterized in that the cycle liquors are irradiated with a power in the range from 0.1 to 1.0 Wh/l.

Please add the following claims 9-15:

9. A system for reducing unwanted microorganisms in liquors containing amine oxide, comprising:
a precipitation bath; and
a series of washing stages communicatively connected to each other and the precipitation bath wherein the precipitation bath and at least one of the washing stages comprise a UV radiation source positioned for irradiating the washing liquor therein with ultra-violet radiation to reduce unwanted microorganisms in the washing liquor.

10. The system according to claim 9 wherein the ultra-violet radiation has a wave length in the range from 200 to 280 nm.

11. The system according to claim 9 wherein the ultra-violet radiation has a wave length of 254 nm.

12. The system according to claim 9 wherein the ultra-violet radiation is generated by a mercury low-pressure lamp.

13. The system according to claim 9 wherein the irradiation treatment is limited to the liquors of the washing stage(s) having a temperature below 50°C.

14. The system according to claim 9 wherein liquors in the precipitation and/or washing stages having a Hazen color number Hz ≤ 400 is subjected to the UV treatment.

15. A method for reducing unwanted microorganisms in washing liquors containing amine oxide, comprising:
irradiating washing liquor containing a N-methylmorpholine N-oxide in at least one washing stage with ultra-violet radiation in a sufficient amount to effectively reduce unwanted microorganisms therein, the ultra-violet radiation having a wave length in the range from 200 to 280 nm.

REMARKS

A replacement page for page 1 and a set of claims amended to date are included herewith in Appendix A and B respectively.

It is requested that the examination and prosecution of this application proceed on the basis of the English translation of the PCT International application included herewith and these amended claims 1-15.

Respectfully submitted,


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